nullified as the Regulation had not yet been brought into effect although the Government had given an assurance in answer to resolutions brought into the Legislative Council, to bring it into effect at an early date. The people of Travancore were more educated and occupied economically a higher position than the people of the adjoining British Districts where Village Panchayats and Taluk and District Boards had already been formed. In the matter of construction of new roads, the people of Travancore were already co-operating with and actively helping the Government. Education, sanitation, control of irrigation works, etc., could also be safely entrusted to Village Panchayats, if formed. In all important Indian States, such Panchayats had already been formed and Travancore alone lagged behind in the matter. No further time should therefore be lost in bringing the Village Panchayat Regulation into operation.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Abraham, you know that it has already been announced that a Bill for amending the Municipal Regulation is under contemplation ; and many of the suggestions that you made now for the better management of the Municipalities are likely to be embodied in the amending Bill or in the rules that may be passed under the Regulation as amended.

63. Certain urgent needs of Kottar.

MR. R. BHAGAVATHIPERUMAL CHETTIYAR (*Trading Classes, Kottar*) said that the existence of the cremation ground, the fish market and the drain running along the southern side of the local tobacco bankshall were a source of nuisance to the inhabitants of Kottar and detrimental to the sanitation of the town. The cremation ground and the fish market should therefore be removed outside the limits of the Kottar town. The drain also should be diverted along the western side of the Ezhava quarters and connected with the Parakkayan *kal*. The Nagercoil Municipal Council had already addressed the Government in the matter.

The Setu Lekshmi Bhai English High School should be raised to a First Grade College. That would be a great boon to the people of Nanjinad, Kalkulam, Eraniel, and other places who were put to much hardship and inconvenience owing to the absence of a college.

A new English Middle School should also be opened in the old English High School building at Kottar. The pupils of the middle school classes residing at Kottar were put to much difficulty and inconvenience in attending the school at Nagercoil. If the Government did not propose to open such a school, the old school building at Kottar might be handed over to the Nagercoil Municipality who were prepared to conduct a Middle School there with the co-operation of the inhabitants of Kottar.

Another request made by the member was that the surpluses in the Government treasuries might be deposited in local banks and lent to local merchants on proper security. The Government were already depositing their money in the Imperial Bank of India which was not in

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any way helping the local traders. If the above proposal did not commend itself to the Government, a branch of the State-Aided Bank might be opened at Kottar with a view to afford banking facilities to the local traders.

There was no uniformity in the use of weights and measures in Nanjinad. Different weights and measures were being used in different parts and consequently the people and merchants were subjected to much hardship and loss. The use of uniform weights and measures should be enforced and stringent instructions should be issued to the authorities in the matter.

The British one anna coin was not being freely accepted in treasuries and schools. That was a source of great inconvenience to the people especially when that coin was not legal tender. Orders should be issued to accept the coins without demur. If confusion arose in accounts on account of the fraction of a cash involved in the conversion into Sirkar currency, orders might be issued to ignore the fraction in the case of one anna coin but take 2 annas as equivalent to 3 chs and 9 cash.

The Agastisvaram Taluk Office and treasury were situated outside the town and the people were put to inconvenience in remitting money into and drawing money from the treasury. The staff of the office were also feeling the inconvenience on account of the distance they had to walk from their residence. The office and treasury might advantageously be located in some of the out-houses of the old English High School.

The Nagercoil Panchayat Court was housed in a rented building. The people frequenting the court mostly belonged to Kottar. It would therefore be desirable to house the court also in one of the out-houses of the old English High School. It would not only remove a source of inconvenience to the people but would also be a gain to the Government to the extent of the rent now given to the building in which the Court was housed.

Lastly, the member advocated the introduction of compulsory primary education, at least in towns to begin with.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Bhagavatiperumal Chettiyar, as regards the removal of the cremation ground, the President of your Municipality has written to say the matter is engaging the attention of the Council.

With regard to your second point, that is, the removal of the fish market to the east of the Kottar bazaar, there is some opposition to the change of site. Government have not decided whether the fish market ought to be removed from within the municipal limits.

With regard to the diversion of the drain to the south of the Tobacco Bankshall, the President of the Municipality is of opinion that it will only transfer the nuisance from one place to another and that at the same time its cost would be heavy. The President has not recommended the diversion and so Government cannot do anything in the matter.

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Then with regard to the English Middle School, Government have no objection to help the Municipality in conducting the school; but they have grave doubts as to whether the finances of the Council as at present would enable it to maintain an English Middle School at Kottar. That aspect of the matter has to be carefully considered before final orders are passed.

Then with regard to raising of the Setu Lakshmi Bhai English High School to the status of a first grade college, there is already a second grade college at Nagercoil and Government do not at present feel the need for establishing a first grade college there.

Then you referred to the opening of a branch of the State-Aided Bank at Kottar. It is a matter for the Bank to decide. I may, however, tell you that a petition was received by the Government from the people of Kottar with regard to this and it has been referred to the State-Aided Bank.

As regards weights and measures, you, as one who has been connected with the trade and commerce of Kottar, know that, in several parts of Travancore, especially in south Travancore, there are several kinds of weights that have been in use for a very long time. There is a Regulation as regards the use of standard measures and weights and Government have issued strict injunctions to the Tahsildars of Tovala and Agastiswaram to see that the rules relating to this are strictly enforced.

MEMBER: ஸ்டான்டார் மெஷர் என்றால் எவ்வளவோ எடைகளும் அளவுகளும் அங்கேயிருக்கின்றன.

DEWAN: ஸ்டான்டார்டு மெஷர் என்றால் அதது மெஷரை அந்த ரெகுலேஷன் அனுசரித்து முத்திரையடித்து வைத்துக்கொள்கிறது.

With regard to what you said about British one anna coin, I do not agree with your view that the one anna coin must be made legal tender and that fractions of a cash should be ignored in certain cases. There are some practical difficulties and so Government cannot accept your suggestions.

MEMBER: ஒரணா பாக்கிவந்தால் அதற்குமட்டும் காசு கூட்ட வேண்டியதில்லை.

DEWAN: ஒரு அணாத்துட்டை கவர்மெண்டார் ஒப்புக்கொண்டு கணக்குக் கூட்டுவதில் அனேக உபத்திரவங்கள் நேரிடும். இரண்டணாத்துட்டை எடுத்துக்கொள்வார்கள். ஒரு அணாத்துட்டுக்கு அரைக்காசு கூட்டவேண்டியிருப்பதால்தான் தப்புகள் வரும்.

MEMBER: போஸ்டு ஆபீஸில் இந்த காணயங்களை எடுத்துக்கொள்கிறார்களே?

DEWAN: ஆமாம். அவர்கள் கணக்கே அந்தப்படி. அதனால் அவர்கள் எடுத்துக்கொள்வார்கள்.

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You advocated the introduction of compulsory primary education. You will yourself concede that, in Travancore, the advantages of education are so universally recognised that there is actually no need for compulsory education.

64. Certain needs of the Nagercoil town.

MR. JOSHUA R. DANIEL (*Municipal Council, Nagercoil*) said that the Nagercoil Municipality had a few pressing needs which could not be met by the Council with its limited resources. The economic condition of the people of that municipality also rendered it not desirable to levy fresh taxes. Hence the need for Government help in the matter.

The first need was a scheme of protected water supply for the Nagercoil town. The town was very congested, the population being 10,000 per square mile and subject to periodical epidemics. The Municipal Council, Nagercoil, had already submitted two alternative schemes to the Government and both of them were extremely cheap, when compared with the Trivandrum Water Supply Scheme. The matter should be taken up for earnest consideration by the Government and all attendant investigations completed within a short time. As the Municipal Council could not invest necessary capital, the Government should take the initiative and work out the scheme on a thoroughly commercial basis.

The Nagercoil town was expanding in a haphazard manner and unless such expansion were controlled by a proper system of town-planning, the healthy and sanitary nature of the town would be lost. The working out of the water supply scheme and the drainage problem would be rendered very difficult. It was therefore imperative that town-planning and the drainage schemes should be taken up along with the water supply scheme as being intimately connected with one another. A town-planning expert should be got down for the purpose by the Government and an engineer should also be deputed to prepare the plans and estimates. A portion of the expenditure involved might be recovered from the Municipal Council.

The Municipal Council was spending about Rs. 10,600 for street lighting. It would be desirable to electrify the town. The compact nature of the town would make the initial and recurring expenditure low. There would also be a great demand from private persons for electric supply. An electric scheme for the town would be highly remunerative and a hydro-electric plant at Tadikarankonam, Ulakaruvi or Muttukuzhi would be more so. Government should take up the work in preference to private enterprise, as the latter would in course of time be an obstruction to hydro-electric developments.

Another need was a telephone system at Nagercoil. With a slight modification and extension, the Kodayar Project telephone system could be made useful to the public and a very remunerative commercial undertaking.

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